of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases where State Trading Corporation of India (STC) took action in 1991 under sction 32 of its Employees (Conduct, discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1975;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some cases the Corporation took the extreme step of expelling its employees from service and not clearing their dues, till date ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor ;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure justice to the expelled employees and that they may not be subjected to more than one penalty for one offence ; and

(e) the steps being taken to adjust the STC's outstanding dues against such employees ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) STC has intimated that a Chief Marketing Manager was removed from the services of the Corporation w.e.f. 3-7-91 by invoking Rule 32 of the STC Employees' (CD&A) Rules, 1975 by the competent authority for having committed acts of misconduct, while posted at STC, USA viz obtaining Green Card by fraudulent means, worked for one Delhi based businessman, received payments from private parties and had absconded from place of his duty since 27th May, 1991.

STC have mentioned that a total amount of Rs. 2,31,870.31 is recoverable from the ex-employee. Arrears pay payable to the ex-employee are Rs. 61,517.90 and he has paid a sum of Rs. 1,08,575.00 to STC on 2-5-94. Thus a total amount now recoverable from him by STC has been indicated at Rs. 61,777.41.

The post of Chief Marketing Manager is a post below Board level and CMD, STC is the appointing authority for such a category being non-Presidential appointee.

Business delegation's visit to U.A.E.

7382. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered business delegation has visited United Arab Emirates in the month of May, 1994;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to attempt for a favourable balance of trade, which is at present negative for India and heavily tilted in favour of U.A.E. ; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) A high powered 19 member FICCI business delegation visited UAE from 25th to 28th May, 1994. The basic objective of the visit was to attract investment from UAE to India.

(c) and (d) During the year 1993-94 (April—Jan.) the trade balance has shifted in favour of India with Indian exports at Rs. 2950.65 crores and import Rs. 2592.76 crores. India's trade surplus has been of Rs. 357.89 crores.

Software team to visit Japan

7383. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of COM-

MERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council is sponsoring a software team to visist Japan next month to tap the Japanese software market at the World Computing Services Industry Congress IX at Yokohama ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether India would be able to tap the Japanese software market which is the second biggest single market of computer software after the United States with an expected world market share of 16.66 per cent amounting to 50 billion U.S. $ by 1995 ; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE COMMERCE MINISTER (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the invitation of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, 8 companies have so far evinced interest to attend and participate in the World Cpmputing Services Industry Congress IX at Pacific Yokohama Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan during June 12—15, 1994.

(c) and (d) The World Congress would provide a platform for the participating Indian Softwarre companies to inter-act with Japanese Software companies. It is hoped tha the participation in the Congress would help in establishing useful contacts for cooperative international relationship and generate business for the participating companies for software exports from India to Japan.

Iron ore procured and exported by the country

7384. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Iron ore procured and being exported by the country during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a major loss in procurement and exports ;

(c) if so, the sectors being badly affected by this loss ; and

(d) what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The total quantity of iron ore exported during the last three years is as under :—

(Qty. Million tonnes)

1991-92	30.02
1992-93	21.95
1993-94 (Apr.—Feb.) (Provisional)	25.39(P)

(Source : DGCIS, Calcutta).

The quantity procured by MMTC for export during the last three years is as under :—

(Qty. Million tonnes)

1991-92	14.00
1992-93	11.06
1993-94	10.81

(b) to (d) The profitability for procurement and export of iron ore has been affected due to reduction in international prices of iron ore and increase in railway freight. The sectors adversely affected are Bihar, Orissa and Bellary-Hospet.